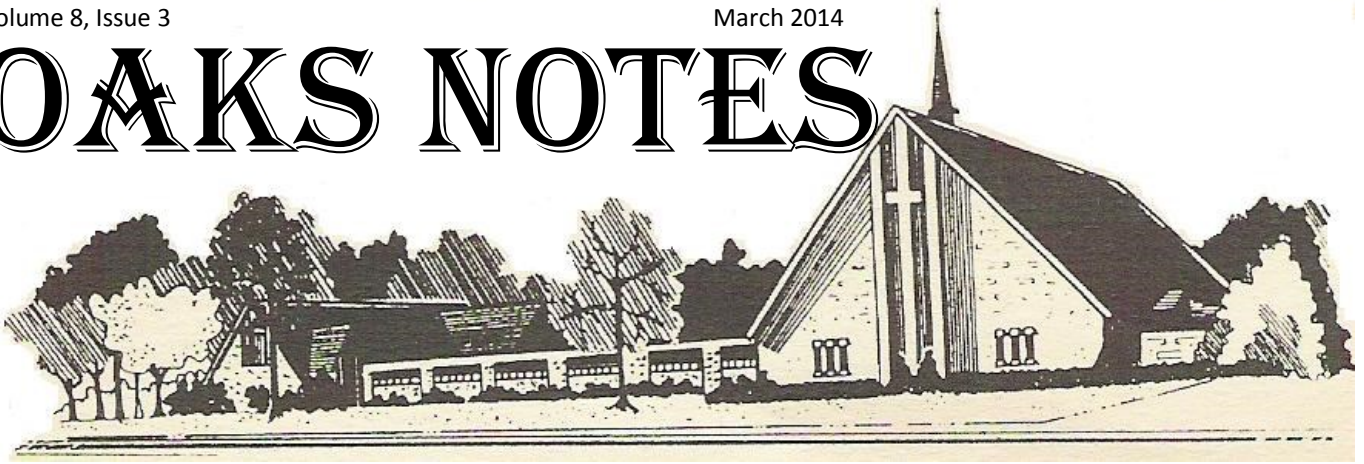
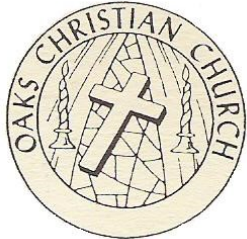


OAKS NOTES



Oaks Christian Church is a family church that loves to share God's word, God's Love, and God's fellowship with the world. We are a church in the near inner loop that strives to be a helpful part of the community. We are about Deep Christian spirituality, a true community and a passion for Justice. We celebrate communion every Sunday service and all who believe are welcome to receive.



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A Note from Pastor Don



A few weeks ago, I did a wedding over in Beaumont, TX that was a real blessing. The young couple was so worried that

they had made things difficult, when actually, it was not a problem at all. However, their concern did remind me of a wedding I did several years ago out on the east coast that *was* a bit troublesome.

When I do a wedding, I usually take charge at the rehearsal, and I help the bride and groom work through what we previously planned together. We walk through all the steps to make everyone feel comfortable for the "big day." However, at this wedding, there were a couple of strong willed mothers, a very outspoken maid of honor, and a bride who was afraid something was going to go wrong!

Every time I mentioned what needed to be done, there were phrases like, "Let's do that later,"

or "Are you sure that will work?" constantly coming from somewhere in the room. Everyone had their own idea of what would work best and what wouldn't work best. It became a very stressful and chaotic environment. I finally realized that doing what the bride and groom originally wanted me to do was near impossible. So, I just took a quiet seat to the side and let everyone voice their ideas.

Eventually, we got through the rehearsal with bits and pieces of what needed to be done in place. But as for the whole wedding, it was still up in the air. So many decisions were left unmade.

There was still one parent who was worried, and he asked me "Do you really think this will work?" I said, "No doubt, the wedding will be great!"

And it was great! Everyone went on and on about what a wonderful service it was. And the bride and groom absolutely **(SEE PASTOR DON, Pg. 2)**

PASTOR DON: A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

(CONT. FROM PG. 1) loved it! I just wish we could have said the same thing about the rehearsal night, which was wasted with unnecessary worrying and second-guessing.

You know, our life with God is not all that different. He has shown us in scripture how He wants to do things. He has even used His saints to prove to us the miraculous things He can do and that trusting in Him works!

But for some reason, we all tend to act like that vocal maid of honor or that mother-in-law who keeps having better ideas! We have a bad habit of telling those around us why God's foolproof plan will not work in this case! We say, "There must be a better way!" Then we sit back and wonder why God is being so quiet about our "great" suggestions.

But the bottom line is, He is going to do it His way and when He does it, it is going to be good! The choice is ours. Now I am sure we all have had some pretty good ideas, but they're probably not the best. We think we're doing what He wants us to do, but the truth is, many times, we're just doing what we're comfortable with.



We think the things we do will glorify God, when in reality, they just glorify us. Many times, in our effort to do well or do more, we create the chaos we live in. He has told us what to do – love Him and love others. To trust and obey Him. It's not complicated, but it's also not easy. Will we follow the Master and His words... Let's say I do!

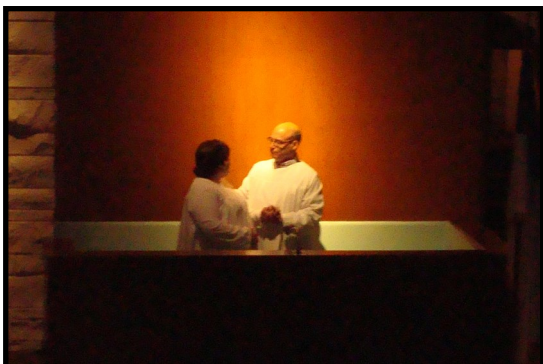
See ya Sunday!
In His Grip,
Pastor Don

OAKS CELEBRATED BAPTISM IN FEBRUARY

Megan Poling was baptized at Oaks Christian Church in front of the congregation, family, and friends on Feb.23 .

Poling said Oaks has felt like home to her, and she was excited to share her commitment in faith with all the members of the church.

"Being with a happy church family has helped."



The church not only helped her with her faith, but also kept her standing strong after her mother passed away last year.

"Pat (Whitley) and Sara (Simons) - they knew my mom," Poling said. "When I fell down, they helped me understand she's still here in my heart. She would be proud of everything I'm doing at the church."

Poling said she hopes to give back now by making God and the church proud of her active faith.

"I feel like I'm not only going to be closer to God, but to everyone here."

Q&A WITH NEW MUSIC MINISTER, VIRGILIO “DJ” DAVIS



Where are you from, and what led you to Houston?

I was born in the Republic of Panama. My parents (brought me to Texas). I was 8 years old, so I had no say. Texas was it. Whenever you immigrate to another country, you have to have a host family, and

our host family lived in Texas.

What do you like about Houston?

The bigness. The hustle and bustle. In Panama, I was born in the capital City, so I grew up with the hustle and bustle of the city.

How did you and Jonathon meet?

Johnathon, actually back in 2008, he was a Spanish student of mine when I was a Spanish teacher. He was in my class. He was just 14 years old, all knees and elbows. He was a choir kid in my class, and senior year, he came back and was my theater student, because I switched from Spanish to Theater. So from then on, he was just always at my side, always helping me out with all the productions. And when he graduated, we still kept in touch, and then we became best pals. He actually helped me lose 100 pounds, and then we became super best pals!

What was your first experience with music?

I went to a school that had only one black teacher. I wanted to be her student, but she was an advanced math class, and I was very bad at Math, so I

was never going to have her as a teacher. But she was also the director of the choir, and I said, if I can't have her as a teacher, then I'm going to have her at something, and she'll be my choir director. So I joined the choir, and I didn't think I could hold a tune at all. Then one day, she pulled me off to the side, and she said, "Could you stay afterwards? Because I wanted to test something out." And I was like what? And she did a couple of exercises with me running up and down the scale, and I didn't think twice of it, because I never sang before. I just remember thinking she did that to everyone one of her singers. And she kind of paused for a second, and she said, "I'm going to give you a solo." And I was like, "Excuse me!" As a freshman, that didn't happen. But for the first time ever, she gave a solo to a freshman, and that's where it all started.

Do you still keep in touch with your high school math teacher/choir director?

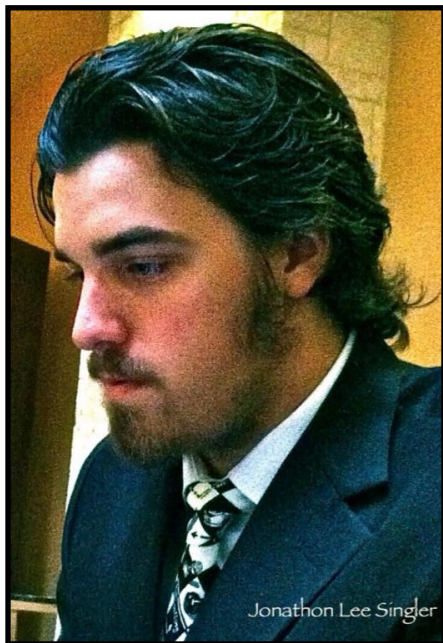
Not long after I graduated, she moved away, all I had was that she was in New Mexico, and I never heard from her again. Well, in the process, a lot has happened in my singing career. I was featured on television, I was flown to the White House three times to sing for a private performance for President Clinton, I have performed in Europe, I am on several movie track CD's for their soundtracks, I'm featured in Los Angeles for several cartoons, and I was in a video game. All of those things happened because of my singing career. And it started with my teacher in high school, because if she didn't do that, I never would have figured out that I could sing.

Two years ago, by accident on Facebook, I found her. I told her everything I had done, and she was just beside herself, because she didn't know I had gone on to do all those things.

What are your hobbies outside of music?

Working on cars. That's what I like to do. I love working on cars and lifting weights and staying fit, but I don't really lift too much, I would rather work on cars.

Q&A WITH NEW MUSIC MINISTER, JONATHON LEE SINGLER



Where are you from? What led you to Houston?

A good portion of my life was spent in Beaumont, Texas. I however, like to claim myself as a Spaniard! Although born in Norfolk, Virginia and eventually ending in Texas, my early years

were spent in Spain; that's when I gathered my first set of memories!

DJ mentioned you recently reconnected with your biological father in Spain?

I was so blessed to have reconnected with my Dad! I have an awesome older brother, two amazing younger sisters, and two sets of parents. The siblings live in Beaumont and Port Neches Groves. I was astonished and still am as to how my Dad and I re-connected! Sixteen years of not having each other and all of a sudden, on Facebook of all places, both of us were granted a remarkable opportunity to have another chance in each other's lives, an opportunity not everyone gets in their life. The eleven months I lived in Spain with both him and Raquel was a period of self-reflection to seek who I was.

Do you play multiple instruments?

Well, I will proclaim I can make joyful noise between the Bass, Piano, and Guitar! I know more theory behind the instruments themselves, rather than having the full ability to play. That being said, I still will take credit!

I hear you play Chess and are ranked in the state? How did you get started in chess, and what do you do with it now?

Chess is without-a-doubt monumental in my life. It's helped me in so many areas of life. I currently compete in Texas and am grateful for where I am ranked and the people I have encountered through it.

It all started my sophomore year in high school when I re-learned the art of chess and really decided to do something with it in my life. I was on the bus one morning headed for school, and my friend had brought a little magnetic pocket-chess set. The end result was me losing the game and him losing four pieces on the bus! After that, the rest was history between forming a competitive chess team, and bringing kids from different backgrounds and cultures together in one common interest.

As of recent months, I have been coaching the Atascocita High School Chess Club, and privately teaching beginners to masters from four years old to seventy!

What have you enjoyed about Oaks?

Oaks has made me feel as if it is my Wednesday and Sunday home! I was really fortunate in not only meeting Don and Linda and being offered such a great opportunity, in addition to the entire committee and church treating me as family.

My background was not filled with church involvement, however; my desire for it was there, and ever-increasing over the past two years. Being at Oaks and already experiencing the wonders I have, has really made me feel and grow more as a person every day. It has truly been and continues to be such a blessing. I continually look forward to each week for the challenges, familiar faces alongside the newly, and fresh breath it offers!

March 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Sunday School @ 9:30 am; Worship @ 10:45 am	3	4 CWF @ 10 am; Bible St. @ 6:15 pm; Girl Scouts @ 6:30	5 Handbell Choir @ 6 pm; Chancel Choir @ 7 pm	6	7 Boy Scouts @ 7:30 pm; Renovada Bible St. @ 7:30 pm	8
9 Sunday School @ 9:30 am; Worship @ 10:45 am	10	11 Prayer Circle @ 9:30 am; CWF @ 10 am; Bible St. @ 6:15 pm; Girl Scouts @ 6:30	12 Handbell Choir @ 6 pm; Chancel Choir @ 7 pm	13	14 Boy Scouts @ 7:30 pm; Renovada Bible St. @ 7:30 pm	15
16 Sun School @ 9:30 am; Worship @ 10:45 am; Dialysis Support Group Mtg. @ 2 pm	17	18 CWF @ 10 am (Galveston Lunch); Bible St. @ 6:15 pm; Girl Scouts @ 6:30	19 Handbell Choir @ 6 pm; Chancel Choir @ 7 pm	20	21 Boy Scouts @ 7:30 pm; Renovada Bible St. @ 7:30 pm	22 CMF Breakfast @ 8 am; Free Community Lunch @ 12-2 pm
23 Sunday School @ 9:30 am; Worship @ 10:45 am	24	25 No CWF; Bible St. @ 6:15 pm Girl Scouts @ 6:30	26 Holly Hall Book Review @ 9:30 am; HB Choir @ 6 pm; Chancel Choir @ 7 pm	27 CWF General Mtg. @ 6 pm	28 Boy Scouts @ 7:30 pm; Renovada Bible St. @ 7:30 pm	29
30 Sunday School @ 9:30 am; Worship @ 10:45 am	31					

Happy March Birthdays!

3/2 John Salinas
3/5 Joan Roberts
3/6 Linda Dalmasso
3/11 Carole Green
& Joann Winner

Happy Anniversary!

3/19 Gale and Julie Clawson



LET US KNOW!

If there are events, meetings, or stories you would like to see in the March newsletter, please let us know!

E-mail the church secretary, Holly Leger, at oakscchouston@aol.com. Please send in all information before

Thursday, March 20, 2014!

From the Treasurer - Dorene Drake

Operating Account '13	2013 NOVEMBER	2013 DECEMBER	2014 JANUARY
Deposits	\$8,816.20	\$9,597.30	\$9,293.37
Disbursements	\$9,175.29	\$9,396.12	\$(10,908.44)
Difference	\$(369.09)	\$201.18	\$(1,615.07)

Oaks Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

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WE SPOTTED YOU AT THE OAKS!

